

The Elephant Man

Tim Vicary

1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a ___ It costs 2 pence to see the Elephant Man.
- b ___ Dr Treves took the creature to the hospital.
- c ___ Dr Treves gave the creature a card.
- d ___ The police wrote a letter to The Times.
- e ___ Merrick had a picture of his mother.
- f ___ The King of England visited Merrick in hospital.
- g ___ The Queen gave Merrick a box of chocolates.
- h ___ Merrick wrote a letter to the Queen.
- i ___ Merrick did not like the country.
- j ___ Merrick died quietly in the street.

10 marks

2 Put the following events in the story in the right order. Number them 1–5.

- a ___ The next day I looked in the shop window again, but the picture was not there.
- b ___ We gave Merrick two rooms at the back of the hospital.
- c ___ I saw that the skin on his face was blue, so I knew he was dead.
- d ___ There was a man in the shop. He was a dirty man in an old coat with a cigarette in his mouth.
- e ___ We went to the theatre in a cab with dark windows.

20 marks

3 Match a number from A with a letter from B to make complete sentences.

A

- 1 ___ Dr Treves is a doctor ...
- 2 ___ Merrick wore some old trousers ...
- 3 ___ When the nurse saw Merrick, ...
- 4 ___ He tried to sleep on his back that night, ...
- 5 ___ He was a man with a very ugly body, ...

B

- a ... she screamed and ran out of the room.
- b ... but no shirt, coat or shoes.
- c ... at the London Hospital.
- d ... but he was a kind man, and he had a lot of friends.
- e ... but his head came off the bed, and he broke his neck.

20 marks



4 Complete the dialogue

- Dr Treves Your Majesty, this Joseph Merrick. Joseph, this is Her Majesty, Queen Alexandra, the of
- The Queen How do you do, Mr Merrick, I'm very pleased to you.
- Merrick How – how, Your Majesty.

20 marks

5 In a few lines, write a short summary of Merrick's story. (How did Dr Treves find him? Were people always good to him? What did he like? How did he die? etc.).

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

30 marks

Total marks

COMPREHENSION TEST

Setting

Choose the best answer.

- 1 Dr Treves first met Merrick in a _____.
a ☐ hospital b ☐ circus c ☐ shop
d ☐ street
- 2 This meeting took place in _____.
a ☐ 1984 b ☐ 1884 c ☐ 1848 d ☐ 1948
- 3 Dr Treves thought that Merrick was the _____ person he had ever met.
a ☐ biggest b ☐ most beautiful
c ☐ ugliest d ☐ kindest
- 4 He thought that the most interesting thing about Merrick's body was his _____.
a ☐ very big head b ☐ very big feet
c ☐ big red tooth d ☐ strange clothes
- 5 His body had a lot of bags of _____.
a ☐ dirty money b ☐ dirty skin
c ☐ clean skin d ☐ shopping
- 6 The shopkeeper was _____ Merrick.
a ☐ kind to b ☐ unhappy with
c ☐ happy with d ☐ horrible to
- 7 He _____ showing Merrick to the public.
a ☐ made money from b ☐ didn't like
c ☐ was worried about d ☐ was afraid of
- 8 When people saw Merrick, _____.
a ☐ they were usually afraid of him
b ☐ they always talked to him c ☐ they always
laughed at him d ☐ they were usually angry
with him
- 9 Dr Treves gave Merrick _____.
a ☐ his home address b ☐ his card
c ☐ a picture d ☐ a book
- 10 At the end of the first visit to hospital, Dr Treves _____.
a ☐ took Merrick to the theatre b ☐ took
Merrick to his own home c ☐ ordered a cab
for Merrick d ☐ took Merrick back to the
shop

20 marks

Characters

Choose the best answer.

- 11 Joseph Merrick was _____ years old when Dr Treves first met him.
a ☐ 35 b ☐ 28 c ☐ 38 d ☐ 25

- 12 Merrick's face showed no expression because _____.
a ☐ a cloth covered his face b ☐ his skin
could not move c ☐ he was bored
d ☐ couldn't understand people
- 13 His left hand and arm were _____.
a ☐ beautiful b ☐ ugly c ☐ very big
d ☐ very strange
- 14 Dr Treves thought that Merrick couldn't _____.
a ☐ read b ☐ eat c ☐ sleep d ☐ drink
- 15 Merrick's mother _____.
a ☐ died when he was born b ☐ often wrote
to him c ☐ gave him to the shopkeeper
d ☐ was a nurse in the hospital
- 16 Mr Carr Gomm was _____.
a ☐ a doctor at the hospital b ☐ the chairman
of the hospital c ☐ Merrick's closest friend
d ☐ a postman
- 17 Queen Alexandra visited Merrick _____.
a ☐ only once b ☐ many times c ☐ every
week d ☐ every month
- 18 Merrick was _____ man.
a ☐ a strange, difficult b ☐ a good, quiet
c ☐ an unfriendly, rude d ☐ a loud, friendly
- 19 His favourite books were _____.
a ☐ adventure stories b ☐ horror stories
c ☐ true stories d ☐ love stories
- 20 When he was in the country, he made friends with _____.
a ☐ the local people b ☐ the cats and dogs
c ☐ the birds d ☐ the lady next door

20 marks

Dialogue

Who said or wrote this?

- 21 'I take him all over the country, you know.'
a ☐ the Queen b ☐ Dr Treves
c ☐ Mrs Merrick d ☐ Mr Silcock
- 22 'Do you want more money? Is that it?'
a ☐ Dr Treves b ☐ Merrick
c ☐ Mr Silcock d ☐ Mr Carr Gomm
- 23 'Help me up the steps!'
a ☐ Merrick b ☐ Dr Treves
c ☐ the Queen d ☐ Merrick's mother
- 24 'Can the readers of The Times help us?'
a ☐ Dr Treves b ☐ the Queen
c ☐ a nurse d ☐ Mr Carr Gomm
- 25 'People don't like looking at me.'
a ☐ Mr Silcock b ☐ Merrick
c ☐ Mrs Kendal d ☐ Dr Treves

The Elephant Man

Tim Vicary

- 26 'This is your home now ... You can stay here all your life.'
a ☐ Mr Carr Gomm b ☐ the Queen
c ☐ Dr Treves d ☐ Mr Silcock
- 27 'You have a very difficult life, but people say you're happy.'
a ☐ Dr Treves b ☐ the Queen
c ☐ Mrs Kendal d ☐ a friend
- 28 'Perhaps I had a Christmas with my mother once, but I do not remember it.'
a ☐ Merrick b ☐ Dr Treves c ☐ a nurse
d ☐ a boy
- 29 'I am going to put some flowers from the country in this letter.'
a ☐ Dr Treves b ☐ Merrick
c ☐ Mr Carr Gomm d ☐ the Queen
- 30 'We liked to talk to him, and we are all very sorry because he is dead.'
a ☐ the Chairman b ☐ a nurse
c ☐ the Queen d ☐ a doctor

20 marks

Vocabulary

Choose the best answer.

- 31 a general name for a living thing
a ☐ cab b ☐ shopkeeper c ☐ creature
d ☐ body
- 32 you do this with your nose
a ☐ touch b ☐ smell c ☐ feel d ☐ look
- 33 the opposite of beautiful
a ☐ dirty b ☐ clean c ☐ kind d ☐ ugly
- 34 to touch somebody with a lot of force
a ☐ hit b ☐ shout c ☐ scream d ☐ help
- 35 a tall building near the sea, with a strong light to help ships
a ☐ lighter b ☐ white house
c ☐ lighthouse d ☐ theatre
- 36 you do this when you are sad
a ☐ cry b ☐ shout c ☐ laugh d ☐ scream
- 37 a place for bad people
a ☐ country b ☐ prison c ☐ palace
d ☐ hospital
- 38 something you have all over your body
a ☐ hat b ☐ cloth c ☐ skin d ☐ hair
- 39 something you watch at the theatre
a ☐ play b ☐ box c ☐ chair d ☐ game
- 40 a small river
a ☐ bath b ☐ water c ☐ fish d ☐ stream

20 marks

Plot

Choose the best answer.

- 41 Dr Treves paid the shopkeeper _____ to see the Elephant Man.
a ☐ two pence b ☐ twelve pence
c ☐ two pounds d ☐ twelve pounds
- 42 When Merrick first went to the hospital, Dr Treves _____.
a ☐ didn't want to help him b ☐ didn't talk to him
c ☐ couldn't help him d ☐ left him on his own
- 43 The doctor next met Merrick _____ later.
a ☐ two months b ☐ two weeks
c ☐ ten years d ☐ two years
- 44 The shopkeeper _____ in Belgium.
a ☐ stole Merrick's coat and hat b ☐ bought a shop
c ☐ stole Merrick's money d ☐ went to prison in Belgium
- 45 Merrick was able to live for the rest of his life in the hospital because _____.
a ☐ the readers of The Times gave a lot of money
b ☐ the doctors paid for his rooms
c ☐ the Queen gave a lot of money
d ☐ it was free
- 46 Merrick always kept a picture of _____.
a ☐ his parents b ☐ Dr Treves
c ☐ his grandmother d ☐ his mother
- 47 The famous person he met in hospital was _____.
a ☐ an actor b ☐ a singer c ☐ the Queen
d ☐ the King
- 48 Merrick wanted to see _____.
a ☐ another country b ☐ the country
c ☐ the sea d ☐ another hospital
- 49 He stayed there for six weeks and _____.
a ☐ was very unhappy b ☐ was very happy
c ☐ wrote a book d ☐ learned to sing
- 50 Merrick died because he _____ and broke his neck.
a ☐ fell out of bed b ☐ fell over
c ☐ lay on his back d ☐ sat up in bed

20 marks

Total marks